

Today, the Mississippi Department of Health launches a new statewide emergency preparedness and response campaign: *Healthy – Secure – Mississippi*.

*****take VO*****

This campaign targets Mississippi residents, their families and their communities preparing them in the event of a public health emergency. Health officials say they have listened to the concerns of Mississippians and responded by stepping up their efforts to protect residents of this state. The State Health Officer says Mississippians should see the health department as their resource for all public health information. Dr. Brian Amy says a variety of programs and activities have been developed to prepare for an emergency event.

SOT: <Dr. Brian Amy, State Health Officer> "All of these activities prepare and equip us to face the 21st century with confidence. We have been recognized for these efforts both nationally and by our colleagues throughout the country who modeled their programs after Mississippi's emergency preparedness and response program." {seconds}

*****VO continues*****

Health officials demonstrated how one of the state's decontamination units is used in hazardous material spills and other 21st Century emergencies. For more information on emergency preparedness, log onto the health department's website. That's w-w-w dot healthy M-S dot com. Or call their 24-7 hotline at 1-800-H-L-T-H-Y-four-you. That's 1-800-458-4948

(For graphics: www.HealthyMS.com, 1-800-HLTHY4U)